

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 528

By Durham

A RESOLUTION commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Franklin.

WHEREAS, it is wholly fitting that this body commemorate the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War Battle of Franklin and commend those who diligently strive to preserve the history, historical sites, and heritage of the area; and

WHEREAS, on November 30, 1864, the proud Confederate Army of Tennessee suffered a devastating loss after its commander, General John Bell Hood, ordered a frontal assault on strong Union positions in and around Franklin, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the battle continued until after dark before Union General John Schofield and his troops resumed their march northward to Nashville; and

WHEREAS, history shows us that the Battle of Franklin decimated the Army of Tennessee; the Confederate charge there was larger, longer, and deadlier than Pickett's charge at Gettysburg; and

WHEREAS, while Union forces suffered 200 casualties and more than 2,000 wounded, General Hood lost nearly a third of his 23,000-strong Army of Tennessee, suffering approximately 1,750 casualties with another 5,500 wounded or captured; and

WHEREAS, losses among Confederate leadership were also catastrophic, as more Confederate generals were killed in the Battle of Franklin than in any other battle of the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, six Confederate generals were killed, including Patrick Cleburne, one of the Confederate Army's finest division commanders, with another five generals wounded and one more captured; sixty of General Hood's 100 regimental commanders were also killed or wounded; and

WHEREAS, the Army of Tennessee fought with great bravery and ferocity at the Battle of Franklin, but was eventually outmaneuvered and overwhelmed, causing one Confederate soldier to call the battle “the blackest page in the history of the war”; and

WHEREAS, two weeks later, General Hood rallied his devastated forces to once again engage the Union Army at the Battle of Nashville; this battle resulted in equally disastrous results as the Army of Tennessee was routed once and for all; and

WHEREAS, the Battle of Franklin has many valuable stories to tell, from historical, political, martial, and human viewpoints, including that of Franklin resident and Confederate soldier Tod Carter, who was mortally wounded a mere five hundred feet from his childhood home; and

WHEREAS, it is important that we remember both the Confederate and Union soldiers who were willing to lay down their lives in service of their beliefs and heritage; they are still with us every day as we continue to learn from the history of the American Civil War; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this General Assembly hereby recognizes and commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Franklin, reflecting on the impact that the battle has had on this state and nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.